

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15-34 and 36-39 are currently being cancelled, including all of the withdrawn-from-consideration claims (2, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15-34 and 36-39), whereby Applicant reserves the right to prosecute those claims in a divisional application, if desired.

Claims 1 and 35 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 8, 11, 14 and 35 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 4 and 35 ("objected to"). By way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of "objected to" (and now canceled) claim 4, whereby presently pending independent claim 1, as well as claims 8, 11 and 14 that dependent from claim 1, are now in allowable form. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending claim 35 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim 1, whereby presently pending independent claim 35 is now in allowable form. Please note that the preamble of claim 1 has been modified, which is not believed to affect the allowance of that claim (or of claim 35 that includes the features of claim 1).

Specification Objections:

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to, because of minor informalities noted on page 3 of the Office Action. By way of this amendment and reply, the specification has been amended to correct those minor informalities. Per the request made in the Office

Action, the specification has been reviewed for grammatical and idiomatic errors, whereby no such errors were found.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0070834 to Hendrix et al; claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendrix et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,396,617 to Scalora; and claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendrix et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,238,738 to Miller. Due to the amendments made to presently pending independent claim 1 so that it now includes the features of “objected to” claim 4, and due to the dependencies of claims 8, 11 and 14 on claim 1, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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